

The Humanist Community decided to accept the challenge of helping the people in northern Ghana who impressed the Bishops so much during their July, 2007 visit. This required considerable thought regarding procedures and rules. Because of the distances involved, we have had to adopt President Ronald Reagan's dictum of "Trust, but verify." This is the guiding principle from which many of our procedures have evolved. For example, much as we would like to, we cannot give scholarships to individuals. It is too difficult to be sure that the money will be spent as intended.

We do not give grants because we are impressed with individuals and organizations. We give grants because we are impressed, have met the individual who is requesting the grant, and we have been presented with a clear description of the planned project, including cost estimate. Then we require email reports and photographs showing what is to be done and demonstrating that the goal has been achieved.

We do one project at a time, and it must reach completion before we embark on the next project.

Our first project was to fund desks for the Larabanga school. Many questions were asked before the desks were funded. It had to be explained why they could not be made in Larabanga (providing work for people there): they do not have wood that is suitable for furniture. How would the wooden desks be protected from wind and weather? Atiti had a building where they could be kept. And so forth.

Here are pictures of the desks, and of the older students using them. They are in a temporary building that they can use. The school is in the process of moving to a new location, and our next project will be to help fund a permanent building which Atiti has already begun to build.

Our funds were also used to supply uniforms for the students. Atiti finds that the students behave much better and are more teachable when they are better attired, just as they learn better when they sit at desks instead of on the ground.

At this writing, three of the teachers have just been paid with funds provided by a special donation from a member of the community. We are looking forward to receiving pictures of those teachers, and letters from each of them ("Trust, but verify!") These teachers worked for a year without any pay. We have been surprised to learn that the pay for three teachers for one year's work is \$750.